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## **Delegate Bronrott and Councilmember Silverman Announce Legislation to Bolster Clarksburg Reforms**

*Clarksburg community leader, Amy Presley, Joins in Announcement*

ROCKVILLE, MD (December 20, 2005) — Maryland Delegate William Bronrott (D-District 16) and Councilmember Steven Silverman (D-At-Large) announced today that Delegate Bronrott will introduce legislation in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to implement planning reforms in response to violations in Clarksburg and other developments in Montgomery County. In addition, Silverman will introduce a resolution at the County Council urging support of Bronrott's reform bill.

"Due to the violations in Clarksburg and in other parts of Montgomery County, including in my own district, Councilman Silverman and I believe it is imperative that penalties are tough on those who break the rules and at the same time serve as a strong deterrent to discourage future violations," said Delegate Bronrott.

Councilman Silverman, Chair of the Council Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee, who has overseen implementation of numerous reforms as a result of Clarksburg and requested the legislation said, "The situation in Clarksburg and elsewhere clearly demonstrate the need for tougher penalties on developers who break the rules and stronger enforcement tools for the Planning Board. A fine needs to be more than just a slap on the wrist, and we need to send the message that we will not tolerate another situation like Clarksburg."

The Bronrott legislative proposal will:

- Significantly increase penalties on developers who violate conditions of their development approvals by increasing the maximum fine to \$500,000, or \$1,000 per day

(more)

per violation, whichever is higher. Currently, the maximum penalty is \$500 per violation with each day of the violation counting as a separate offense.

- Give the Montgomery County Planning Board the authority to subpoena witnesses. During the Planning Board's review of alleged violations at the Clarksburg Town Center project, the Board did not have the authority to subpoena key individuals.
- Give the Montgomery County Planning Board the authority to compel witnesses to testify under oath.

Joining Bronrott and Silverman in the announcement was Amy Presley, co-chair of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee, the citizens group that uncovered numerous building violations in the new community.

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